

1-15-2009

Observer

Central Washington University

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Observer

The Central Washington University

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January 15, 2008 Vol. 83 Issue 1

Red Cross aids in flood relief

Water levels lower as local volunteers rise to unfortunate occasion

by Kevin Opsahl
Staff Reporter

More than a week after the flooding in Ellensburg began, the Kittitas County Red Cross is still in response mode and their efforts have moved from upper to lower county.

The Red Cross provided informational assistance at its office on 312 N. Pearl St., and set up shelters around the valley. According to a press release, they ordered 400 clean-up kits to be distributed to affected residents. Each kit contains a bucket, broom, mop and cleaning supplies. The organized effort had groups of volunteers going into flooded areas and distributing kits door to door to those in need. The Red Cross also had members staying and assisting home owners in need of extra cleaning help.

In addition, the Red Cross asked local churches to make their own efforts to help residents clean up. Hundreds affected by the disaster have been helped by the organization and its outreach.

Jennifer Carkner, Executive Director of the Kittitas County Chapter of the American Red Cross, said the organization has worked around the clock this past week to get residents' lives back to normal. They are contacting Hopesource for additional outreach and are assessing the possibility of FEMA assistance.

"We're still in the response mode and assessing the houses that have been damaged," Carkner said. "I think we have made great progress. Every time we do this it is a learning process, so that we are able to do things more efficiently each time. After this we move into preparation mode where we start training and collecting resources."

Major mudslides, floods and avalanches led to large-scale

evacuations across Kittitas County, forcing residents to leave their homes behind to seek safety. After the Kittitas County commissioners declared a state of emergency on Jan. 7, law enforcement crews were sent around to heavily flooded parts of the city.

On that day, a shelter was set up at St. Andrews Catholic Church in Ellensburg and at the Centennial Center in Cle Elum. Undersheriff Clayton Myers said the shelter in Ellensburg housed about a dozen people last week with the help of Kittitas and Yakima Red Cross, and community support.

Red Cross volunteer Donna Becker of Ellensburg, who was at St. Andrews and has been helping victims since the flooding began, said this isn't the first time she has seen something like this.

"The same thing happened in 1996 and it was much worse then," Becker said. "Windows blew up and the downtown and university flooded. I think people are more prepared this time."

City officials have had their hands full trying to clean up the mess and estimate costs. Myers said emergency response workers "pretty much saved" the levee on Highway 10 from breaking.

The Yakima Red Cross disaster relief vehicle brought supplies to the area, including cots for families to sleep on. The organization has about 200 trained volunteers.

"There were quite a few people displaced up there," said Paul Billings, Yakima Red Cross volunteer. "Quite a few more [than expected]. We figure we sometimes get 10 percent [of the community]. But, small community people find places to go."

The Kittitas Chapter of the Red Cross also received a \$5000 donation from the United Way of Kittitas County, according to a press release. Jerry Pettit and Jerry Williams, owners of Jer-



Photo by Pete Los/Observer

Several Ellensburg businesses near the West Interstate Exit experience flooding as puddles become ponds due to sudden increasing temperatures resulting in excessive snow melt.

rol's Book and Supply Company, came to the fairgrounds on Saturday during the distribution of the clean up kits and awarded the donation to Carkner.

The Ellensburg chapter has

experienced a climb in volunteers since the flooding began and have trained 13 new individuals. The Junior American Red Cross Aides (JARCA) at Central Washington University were not involved in

the response, according to Carkner.

"Until people receive disaster training, they cannot participate," Carkner said. "We want Central students to be active in our next disaster response."



scene

Nicholas switches
café to catering

page 8



Viking Football

sports

Battle in Seattle
ceases as Western
cancels team

page 13



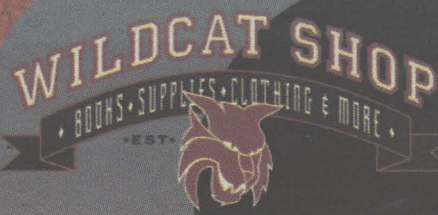
Quinn Eddy/Observer

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History alive

by Quinn Eddy
News Editor

One amazing thing about Kittitas County is the fact that there are soo many old buildings with rich history screaming to be rediscovered.

As students drive the Canyon Road they pass a group of warehouses on the train tracks and an old gas station. The larger buildings in the photo above are old potato storage buildings.

The buildings were originally built for the Pacific Fruit and Produce Company based out of Yakima. This company shipped potatoes between the 1920s and 1940s before going out of business.

In the 1960s Steve Moe bought the building and rent-

ed it out as a place for potato companies to store their potatoes before selling them to become potato chips. By the 1990s the building was no longer used for potatoes. Currently the buildings sit empty.

The gas station is the old O'Dell's Service Station. O'Dell's operated between the 1940s and 1960s.

Due to the fact that the Yakima Canyon Highway used to be the main highway between Yakima and Ellensburg there were several diners and service stations along the Canyon Road. In addition to being a full service station, O'Dell's also had a small eatery where one could get a sandwich and soup. The owners of the service station lived in a house behind the service station.

For those interested in building portfolio clips and a professional resume, consider joining the Observer News team. Call Quinn Eddy at 206-819-5794 or e-mail at eddyq@cwu.edu.

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The observer is a class in which students are constantly learning how to interview, report and produce a newspaper.

A CWU Dining Services Special Event

Holmes Dining Room

A Seafood Extravaganza

Wed, Jan 28
4:30 pm to 7:00 pm

Deep Sea Daze

A Seafood Extravaganza

Seafood Appetizer
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A CWU Dining Services Special Event

Holmes Dining Room

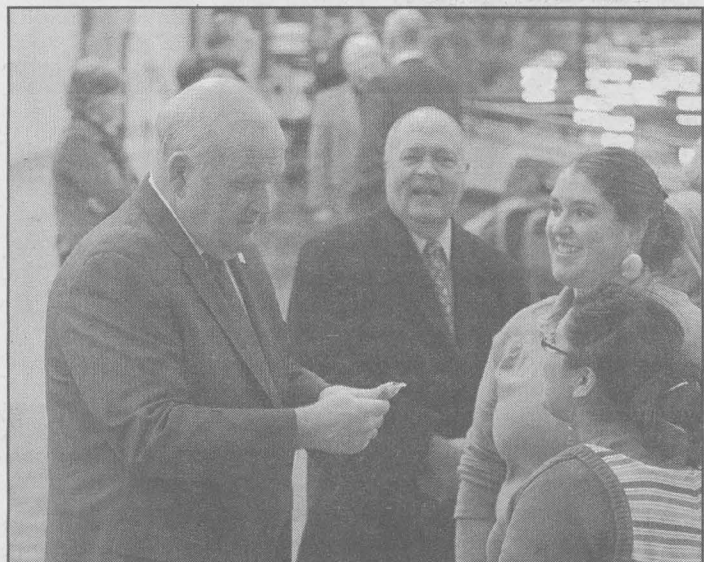
A Seafood Extravaganza

Wed, Jan 28
4:30 pm to 7:00 pm

Deep Sea Daze

A Seafood Extravaganza

Regular Residential Student Meal Price
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Dan Brown/Observer

Central Washington University's new president Dr. James Gaudino greets Central Students.

Central welcomes Gaudino

by Matthew Hartmann
Staff reporter

The slowly growing crowd of Central students and faculty waited amidst the refreshments that had been laid out. The excitement grew as the man they had been waiting for appeared.

Dr. James Gaudino, Central Washington University's new president, walked among the crowd of people who wanted to wish him well and offer advice.

Gaudino spoke to the people about his dreams for the future of Central. According to Gaudino the most pressing matters are dealing with the financial crisis and the hiring of more faculty.

"I would see greater independence from changes in state funds than we currently

have," Gaudino said.

Associated Students of Central Washington University-Board of Directors (ASCWU-BOD) Vice President of Academic Affairs, Caitlin Baldwin, senior aviation major, spoke on behalf of the entire BOD.

"The student government wants to ensure that communications between students and the president remain strong," Baldwin said.

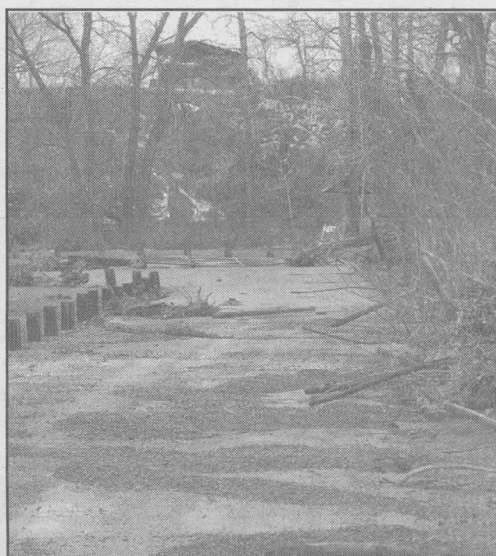
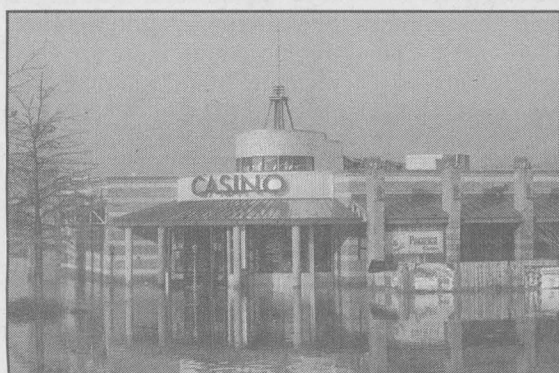
Baldwin said that based on meetings with Gaudino, that he has made student communication and concerns one of his top priorities.

Dr. Jesse Nelson, Director of the Center for Excellence in Leadership said that he liked Gaudino's energy and optimism.

"He seems to have just hit the ground running and I appreciate that," Nelson said.

The Observer welcomes you to Central, Dr. Gaudino.

Got boat?



Katie Evans/Observer

Above: Flood water lines still show on the outer walls of Perkins Restaurant on Saturday, Jan. 10. Left: The road to people's pond was damaged after flooding. Far Left: Floodwaters drown the WildGoose Casino's parking lot, leaving gamblers homeless.

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New year brings no resolution

by Megan Peters
Staff reporter

Ten! Nine! Eight! Seven! Six! Five! Four! Three! Two! ONE! Happy New Year!

The countdown to the end of one year and the beginning of another is always a celebration. For some people it is the beginning of new dreams, for others it is the end of some.

For many, the new year is a time for several of us to make resolutions to better our lives. Pledges often include attending classes more often, working out four times a week, or sticking to a budget.

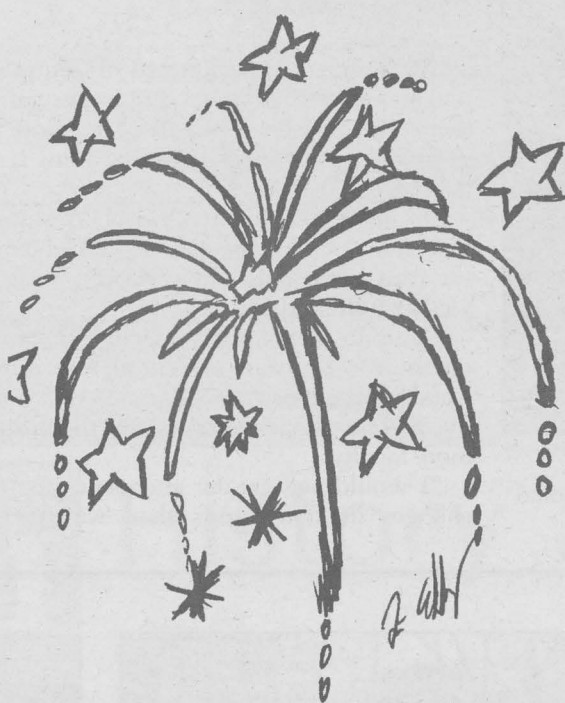
Each year millions of people resolve to change their lives for the better but end up falling off the wagon a month or two into the new year. With the stress of work, school, family and friends, letting those New Year's resolutions slide is very easy to do, especially when it comes to goals that include weight loss.

Almost everyone starts the

new year with a goal to make it to the gym every day and eat healthier. However, when people do not see results within the first week or two they tend to get discouraged. Nutrition majors explain that a more realistic goal for weight loss is about one or two pounds a week maximum.

"Students need to realize that for most individuals it took a while to gain that weight, and any radical weight loss is simply temporary," said Dr. David Gee, Central professor of food science and nutrition at Central Washington University.

Many students feel that being on a tight budget and liv-



ing on campus can limit their nutrition options.

"There is a perception that the choices offered on campus are limited," Gee said. "However, healthy choices

are available. It is just a matter of steering away from the easy bad choice."

The nutrition department on campus is committed to helping students lead healthy lifestyles. The peer nutrition education program on campus is a group of Central seniors who are majoring in food nutrition. These students are available in the Student Union Recreation Center and the Student Health Center.

The peer nutrition program can help students one on one or in a group.

Even though resolutions are hard to keep, many Central Washington University students have made New

Year's resolutions with the hopes of this being the year they keep to their pledge.

"My New Year's resolutions this year were to eat healthier, drink less, and go to class more," said Karah Sovern, junior psychology major.

Being specific about goals will make them easier to obtain. Making too many resolutions can be overwhelming. Limiting the number of goals pledged will make it easier to successfully achieve them, which is an idea that Central students grasp.

"This year I really want to work on decreasing my two mile time to be able to run it in 18 minutes or less," said Julie Fiseon, junior business major.

Other students' resolutions include staying up-to-date on their homework, learning a new language, quitting smoking, becoming more environmentally friendly and managing their debt.

Virus strikes local retirement community

by Quinn Eddy
News Editor

On Jan. 28 Dry Creek Retirement and Assisted Living Community saw the first signs of a flu-like virus that would eventually come to

visit almost every resident and staff member.

So far, the flu-like virus has worked its way through nearly the entire Dry Creek Facility.

"This type of thing happens," said Dawn News-

chwander, administrator at Dry Creek. "I've been a nursing home administrator for 11 years and something like this usually happens once a year during the winter."

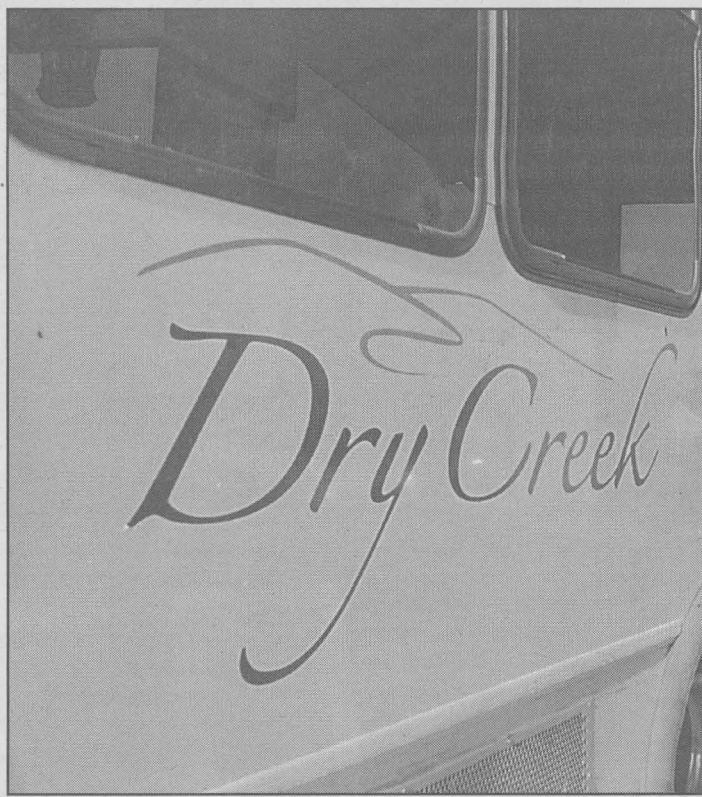
For most people, the flu-like symptoms lasted 36 hours, but for several residents the inconvenience lasted longer.

"I was out for about 6 days," said Dry Creek resident Lavonne Martin "In the three years I've lived here it's never been this bad."

According to the Department of Health, the flu-like virus wasn't airborne. Symptoms included nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea.

In addition to these symptoms, dehydration was another problem that residents and staff faced.

All staff attended an in-service meeting on proper hand washing and other precautions to minimize the threat of spreading sickness to others.



Quinn Eddy/Observer

Most Dry Creek residents rely on bus service to maintain independence, especially when ill and in need of medical attention.

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News in Brief

ELLENSBURG—According to a memo sent out by the University Provost, approval has been granted to split the Department of Education into four departments. Elections for department chairs will occur in January. Faculty are encouraged to submit nominees to the provost by Friday, Jan. 16. Elections will occur during department meetings that will be held at least five business days after the slate of nominees is announced and submitted. The actual DOE split will occur at the start of Spring Quarter.

opinion

Everyday a snowday



**Kayla
Schroader**
Editor-in-Chief

Last quarter had taken its course far quicker than I had anticipated. I would be leaving behind my apartment, bills and responsibilities for three weeks to celebrate Christmas with my family.

Still, I felt robbed of the winter season kick-off, having not seen one falling snowflake. Here in Ellensburg, glistening white ground cover distinguishes this season from the intense beating of the summer sun over the rolling hills of the Kittitas Valley. Many of us at Central anxiously await that first snow.

Then, as if by some prede-

termined demeanor, on the last day of finals, winter fell from the sky with determined fury. What a cheap dodge – a snowfall too late to be fully enjoyed, but just in time to complicate travel conditions.

I told myself it would be here for our return in January, and until then I could be patient. Little did I know, the wait would not be long.

It had been years since I've enjoyed a white Christmas in Tacoma, my region of the west side. This year however, it seemed as if the weather headed westward as I went home to nearly two weeks of snow.

And so came the winter rejoicing – flashing cameras capturing the powdered paradise, snowballs flying past the snow people lining the sidewalks. But as east-siders well know, this glee is short lived, followed by icy roads, runny noses and not to mention fat winter coat and clunky boot disguises.

My mother felt compelled to call me nearly every hour to ensure I hadn't been killed in a fender bender or crushed under a rooftop avalanche.

Suddenly, a five-minute drive to the local grocery store takes nearly half an hour. One frustrated friend suggested forming a coalition with the "six other drivers who know how to handle a vehicle in the snow," requiring a special license to keep timid drivers and their flashy sports cars off the roads. There's one idea. Or, we can just relax a bit and take the long way home to avoid steep roadways, or maybe park up the street and walk a couple blocks to avoid slippery driveways. Isn't that what the snow represents, a time to freeze and watch the flakes fall?

In Ellensburg the valley permits flat roadways. Nonetheless, for nearly one-third of the year, the town is buried in snow. It is a lifestyle that many have sufficiently adapted to because there is no way most can afford four months of skipping work and school on account of "snow days."

Now, it seems to have run its course. It feels as though winter has come and gone in a matter of weeks. Mother Nature will have to be the judge of that.

OBSERVER

The editorial views expressed are those of the writers and not necessarily the views of the newspaper staff at large, the student body, the faculty and administration and are certainly not to be considered as official views of Central Washington University.

Horoscopes according to the stars

ARIES:

The next step holds financial and social prosperity. Get back in touch with loved ones. You are missed.

TAURUS:

Expect financial and spiritual growth. Be wary of a desire to spend and venture into new partnerships. You may be driven to change but still connected to your past.

GEMINI:

Difficulty lies ahead but you are protected from enemies. This is a strong time for business. Positive light rests in your family and love life. Expect change and your wishes just might come true.

CANCER:

Outstanding efforts result in outside approval. Do not delay your decisions but do hold off on sexual advances until Feb.

LEO:

Practice patience and take a breath before playing catch-up. Listen to the advice of loved ones. Be good to them and to your own body.

VIRGO:

A complicated week lies ahead, so be alert. Success does not come easily. Keep your chin up and consider different means of communication.

LIBRA:

Success is accessible. Change is expected.

SCORPIO:

Domestic and career challenges are foreseen. Hold off on large purchases. Be honest with yourself by accepting your inner transformation, don't fight it.

SAGITTARIUS:

Don't let stress burden your bank account. Stay level headed in light of new responsibility. Only hard work and wise consideration will yield positive results.

CAPRICORN:

The start of this week has been difficult. Watch your judgment and accuracy. Transformation will present itself but hold off on major decisions for now.

AQUARIUS:

You've had a strong start to the week. Enjoy the comfort. On the other hand, don't let good fortune blind you to hardships that may arise later in the week. You can feel change approaching, but in good time.

PISCES:

Career and financial obstacles are expected. Prove your strength outside of your comfort zone. Don't be too gullible.

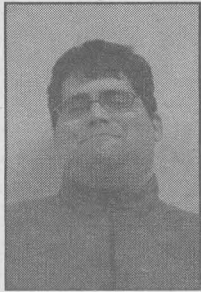
The Artist's Eye...



Sylvia Armitstead / Observer

Gaza:

A long and hard path



Matthew Hartmann
Staff reporter

The bloody and controversial conflict in Gaza between Israel and Hamas has lasted almost two weeks now and for me it's personal. As I sit through my classes many of my friends are currently serving in the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF). For those of you who don't know me, I graduated from high school in 2004, and August of that same year I embarked on an adventure of self-discovery in Israel. This unforgettable endeavor lasted until June of 2005. I have many friends and family in Israel so everyday I monitor the Israeli news, hoping that nobody I care about has gotten involved with problems in that region. I am very familiar with the situations that sometimes happen in Israel. Within the first month, I saw a suicide bombing in Jerusalem. The bomber was a woman pretending to be pregnant. I can even recall the date and the number of casualties. The attack happened on

Sept. 22, 2004. Two were killed and 15 wounded. This was a smack to my face and ironically what made me decide to become a journalist. At that point, I realized that everything that happens in this world matters and that people need to know. I am one Jewish student who wants to give background on his own personal experiences before divulging why this war is not a black and white issue. Of course, it is unfortunate that civilians in Gaza are caught in the crossfire but for as long as Hamas has power and weapons, this conflict will continue. Believe me, I feel horrible for civilians no matter what side of the war they are on, but Hamas is a terrorist group whose charters' stated purpose is to destroy Israel. What are the Israelis supposed to do? Let Hamas continue launching rockets at their cities? Let me put it this way: If a rogue group in Mexico started to attack American cities, should the U.S. sit back and let such attacks continue? Of course not! They would swiftly crush this terrorist group to protect their own citizens. I think that the only long-term solution would be the disarmament of Hamas and the power transfer of Gaza over to the legitimate Palestinian Authority facilitated by United Nations inspectors. While there is no simple solution to this problem, it is certainly a step in the right direction.



Rachel Guillermo
Culinary Columnist

Culinary Corner:

Preping the plate

From ramen and pasta salads, to brats and beer; for the last three quarters you've read some of my personal favorite recipes. But who wants to keep reading something from just one source? This quarter I would like to hear from you, the Central community.

Whether it be more recipes, cooking problems you've faced in the kitchen, questions you wanted answered or if you just want to chew the fat about culinary stuff, I'll try my best to keep your hunger fed. You can email your questions, comments and concerns to cwuculinarycorner@gmail.com.

Culinary tip of the week:

Terms you should not be afraid of

Butterfly:

To split food (meat, fish, fowl) down the center, cutting almost, but not completely through. The two halves are then laid open flat to resemble a butterfly.

Deglaze:

After the food and excess fat have been removed from the pan, a small amount of liquid is heated with the juices in the pan and stirred to remove browned bits of food from the bottom. The mixture often becomes the base for a sauce.

Emulsify:

To bind together two liquid ingredients that normally do not combine smoothly, such as water and fat. Slowly add one ingredient to the other while mixing rapidly. This action disperses tiny droplets of one liquid in the other. Mayonnaise and vinaigrettes are emulsions. Use a good whisk for steady, even emulsification.

Chiffonade:

To slice into very thin strips or shreds, the French term means "made of rags".

Fold:

To combine a light mixture like beaten egg whites with a much heavier mixture like whipped cream. In a large bowl, place the lighter mixture on top of the heavier one. Starting at the back of the bowl, using the edge of a rubber spatula, cut down through the middle of both mixtures, across the bottom of the bowl and up the near side. Rotate the bowl a quarter turn and repeat. This process gently combines the two mixtures.

The Observer welcomes brief letters (300 words) from readers on current issues. Include the author's full name and University affiliation: year and major, degree and year graduated or department. All letters become property of The Observer. E-mail letters to cwuobserver@gmail.com.

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Skill level: medium

Resoluting into 2009



Barb Owens
Copy Desk Chief

I have made a New Year's resolution. It's a simple one, perhaps just a reminder of the way we should all behave on a daily basis. I usually don't make resolutions because I think they can be unrealistic. But recently something made me change my mind. The other day I was treated in such a discourteous way, and it really got me thinking. I won't go into detail about it, but I have never felt so insulted and disrespected. I know I was not deserving of this conduct and I should have let it roll off my shoulders, but my feelings were hurt. Obviously I am still upset. My resolution is this: Respect. I never want to make another person feel the way

I felt that day. The golden rule is exactly that. It makes perfect sense and I think the majority of people believe in it and try to live by it. Respect is not something that people need to earn. We are all entitled to it. If a certain day has been particularly stressful, it does not give you the right to take your frustrations out on others. Your friends and family are there to lean on, not trample over. Coworkers, customer service employees, teachers and complete strangers are all deserving of civilized treatment. As someone who has waited tables for many years, I can tell you that we never forget the faces of the rude patrons we serve. In an ethics class last quarter I learned that people judge you by your last worst act and you judge yourself by your best qualities. I try to keep this in mind because I think it is the reality in which we live. So next time you find yourself about to explode on someone, or making an offensive remark just loud enough for them to hear, remember the golden rule.



“My customers...that’s what really kept me going”

- CAFE NICHOLAS OWNER AND CHEF NICHOLAS LUDLOW

Culinary LOVE affair comes to an END

by Rachel Guillermo
Culinary Columnist

In late November, chef and owner, Nicholas Ludlow, had to close the doors to Cafe Nicholas for the last time. Ellensburg residents and Central Washington University students alike said their goodbyes to Ludlow and his staff after a six-year relationship.

After working in the culinary industry for corporate America, Ludlow got his chance to live out his dream when the owner of ‘Mama’s Cajun Cooking,’ now known as Café Nicholas, decided to sell to Ludlow after one conversation.

Although Ludlow is upset to see the café go, he is not bitter and reminds himself of what the restaurant meant to him and the community.

“It just became a love affair with me and my customers,” Ludlow said. “I miss them all. My customers have just been my moral support, my drive to get up everyday . . . that’s what really kept me going.”

Ludlow blames the poor economy for the closure of the restaurant.

“Last Christmas (December 2007) when the gas prices went up, we just never caught up . . . the only month that was above was this month (November 2008) because I was closing and everyone knew it.”

In order to keep the café open longer, Ludlow had to get a second job doing catering gigs. With both jobs, Ludlow was left with little time for anything else.

“It got to the point where I was working seven days a week,” he said. “And I wasn’t making any money here but the catering made money.”

From the squeaky, rusty white front screen door, to the bright red vinyl booths, to the plastic red and white checkered table covers, Ludlow had a certain feel he wanted to convey to his customers.

“I wanted a place [where] people could come and socialize comfortably,” Ludlow said. “A place where you could come see someone over there that you don’t even know . . . and you bring up a conversation.”

Customers expected to be treated like a part of Ludlow’s family when coming for a meal.

“I mean, that was my whole concept,” Ludlow said. “To make it feel like everybody was in your front room

with the attitude where we get to laze around and be served and spoiled rotten -- and harassed, cause that’s what I love to do.”

It was obvious from the “Beware of Attack Chef” sign hanging above the kitchen entrance that Ludlow’s personality shined not only in the kitchen, but when he interacted with his customers.

“It’s kind of who I am,” Ludlow said. “I like to come out and talk to people and get to know them . . . and the big thing was that there was finally a nice breakfast place in town that people were saying had good, homemade, ‘from scratch,’ food.”

Ludlow still has high expectations for his personal and culinary future. He plans to turn the building into a catering hall and martial arts studio.

Ludlow has about 10 years of karate experience and recently received his teaching certificate. He wants to use the space as a training facility, with fellow martial arts guru, Shaun Eastman.

Ludlow also has plans to teach out of the café’s kitchen. Like with everything else in Ludlow’s life, he will bring his own style to teaching.

“I’m teaching people who really want to learn how to cook,” Ludlow said. “It’s an art. It’s beautiful. It’s something you can take right out inside of you and put it on a plate and people will appreciate it.”

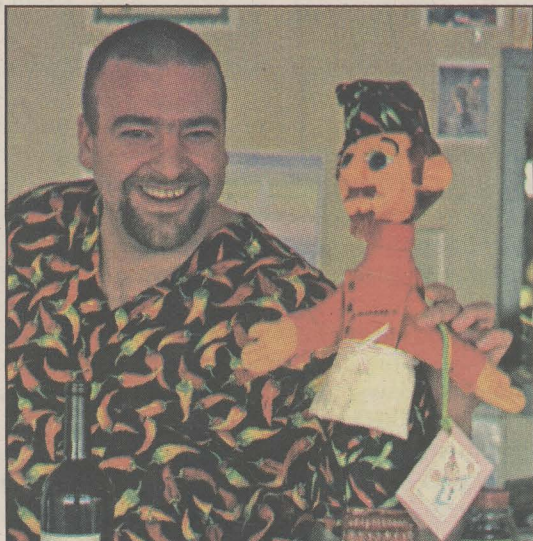
Right now Ludlow is unsure of the café’s future but he wants to remain connected to his customers.

“It’s a double edged sword . . . sometimes it’ll get your heart broken and sometimes you get things that are so warm and fuzzy you say ‘that’s what I do this for’ . . . I live for people walking out the door rubbing their bellies saying ‘Mmmm, boy oh boy! You got a wheelchair or something?’ Those are the kind of things I love cause that’s what touches people internally and they remember that.”

With the recent remodel of the building, Ludlow is available for renting the space out for catering jobs.

For information about catering opportunities, cooking classes or martial arts classes, call Nick at 925-3544.

“Like I said, it’s been a love affair for me and it’ll probably last until the day I leave Ellensburg, if I ever do,” Ludlow said.





Tetsu Takiguchi/Observer

All of the courses are hand-made by the owners. Visitors can enjoy the unique courses and paintings while playing. The Owners Ernie Storey (R) and his son Jonathan Storey (L) demonstrates on the courses.

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by Amber Ramento
Staff reporter

During a time when business seems to be struggling and jobs are hard to come by, the Storey family takes a chance and opens Big Top Golf in downtown Ellensburg.

Big Top Golf is a nine-hole facility with a snack bar owned by Ernie Storey and son Jonathan Storey. All of the wall art was created by Ernie's wife and Jonathan's mother, Pam Storey.

"I have been painting as a hobby for 15 to 20 years, but I have only done wall murals for about six years," Pam said.

What makes this putt-putt course unique, other than the fact that it is indoors, is that it is a black-light establishment. It is equipped with everything from glowing balls to glowing golf pencils.

"Watch for change; within the next year we hope to make an add-on for children four and under," said Tarsha Storey, Jonathan's wife. "It will include a sandbox and just some activities for younger children. Also, we want to add more optical illusions on the course."

Ernie and Jonathan Storey created Big Top Golf because after moving to Ellensburg they realized that there wasn't

much to do for children, teens, or college students. This father and son duo, allows Big Top Golf to be focused on all age groups.

They have set up a college discount night on Tuesdays from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. Students with ID receive a dollar off admission.

Many people may be curious about how the Storey family could open a business at a time when the economy is struggling.

"We just took a dream and made it happen. We very well utilized our material that we had to work with," Pam said.

Not only are the prices inexpensive at Big Top Golf, but there are also many party, event and family packages available that include unlimited golfing. Prices range from \$5 for party and event packages and \$15 for a family of four.

"We may add to Big Top Golf, or change things around a little bit and definitely get some hot dogs and more food in our snack bar," Jonathan said.

Big Top Golf is located on 317 N. Pearl St. and is open Sunday from 12 p.m. to 7 p.m., Monday to Thursday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Students reduce carbon footprint

by Erica Spalti
Staff reporter

Throughout winter quarter, the Central Washington University Don and Verna Duncan Civic Engagement Center is putting on a program to enhance recycling on campus.

The program is led by Kiley Baker, sophomore, undeclared major.

The plan is to attempt to reduce students' carbon footprint, which is how much impact humans have made on the environment and how many greenhouse gasses we produce, in terms of carbon dioxide.

Student volunteers and those who work at the Civic Engagement Center will hold a recycling fair to inform the community about the effects of recycling.

When asked about the outcome of this program, Kristen Dexter, a junior pre-law major said, "I feel that this program has the potential to work, however, not everyone cares about recycling."

One example of students

working together to promote recycling is a collection program that residence halls have started. In the evenings, a group of volunteers go door-to-door collecting plastic bottles, paper and cardboard products, along with other recyclables.

"I think that it is important for students to reduce our carbon footprint," Emma Cook, sophomore, undeclared major said. "We hear all this talk

"I feel that this program has the potential to work..."

Kristen Dexter
JR. PRE-LAW

on the news about the environment and global warming and I don't think people really know that little changes to their daily routine can make a difference in what's going on."

From Tuesday, Jan. 6 thru Friday, Jan. 16, student volunteers will be at a booth in the Student Union and Recreation Center, encouraging students to learn more about renewable resources and the benefits of recycling, as well as, finding more volunteers for future recycling projects.

"It doesn't matter if they come to the table or if I ever see their face, if people recycle then I will be happy," Baker said.



Quinn Eddy/Observer (left) and Pete Los/Observer (right)

Reduced prices, hours and online sales help businesses cope with less customers in the winter.

Downtown business readies for weak economy

by Quinn Eddy
News Editor

As the United States faces an uncertain economic future, Ellensburg businesses have begun bracing for the financial hurricane approaching in the distant future.

Within the last year, Ellensburg has added 13 new businesses. Some of these businesses have done great, however within the last year, several small businesses have closed their doors, some within the first three years of opening.

"Many of these new businesses are actually saying that they are exceeding original sales projections," said Tim Bishop, director of the Ellensburg Downtown Association.

Businesses that are doing especially well are the Dollar Tree and Hailaina's Closet. Hailaina's Closet is a store that sells gently-used children's clothing. The success of these stores is due to the fact that they are value-driven businesses.

Furniture sales throughout town have also seen a positive increase in sales. Many locals have been leaning toward re-decorating rather than full home renovation.

Local businesses have been big on taking an online approach to sales as well. By utilizing resources provided by local e-commerce solution company Tallee.com, many businesses such as Jerrol's and Iron Horse Brewery are seeing

increased sales generated from Web-based endeavors.

"There's a lot of concern coming with these economic trends but ultimately I feel we are poised well for 2009," Bishop said.

Sam Scotchmer, a brewer for Iron Horse Brewery, said that September was really good for them.

"November and January are usually the slowest but it picks

up in the summer because of the warm weather," Scotchmer said. "We're still going strong."

Ellensburg businesses have also utilized resources at Central. The Public Relations Student Society of America

(PRSSA) students have been involved in the promotion of several local restaurants through the magazine "Northwest Travel." Sazón, Morrelli's Café Italiano, and The Valley Café have all reaped the benefits of PRSSA's project with "Northwest Travel."

"I feel we are making a positive impact on our local community because now people

will take the time to check out local businesses," said Ashley Scrups, senior communication major and president of PRSSA.

Around campus, the question has lingered whether or not Lilly's Cantina is struggling financially, due to their cutback on hours of operation. Lilly's is in fact going through a full identity change. Rather than being a restaurant owner

and manager, Tony Contarino is embarking on changing to more of a nightclub scene.

"It's been an idea since Lilly's opened up," Contarino said.

For Lilly's, it has come down to the question of what the market in Ellensburg wants.

For Lilly's, the lunch crowd just wasn't strong enough to make regular restaurant hours profitable.

This shifting business model could turn Lilly's into the nightlife capital of Ellensburg. This new business model will add to Ellensburg's other exciting events such as Brewfest, the Ellensburg Rodeo and Jazz in the Valley.

"There's a lot of concern coming with these economic trends but ultimately I feel we are poised well for 2009."

Timothy Bishop
EBA Director

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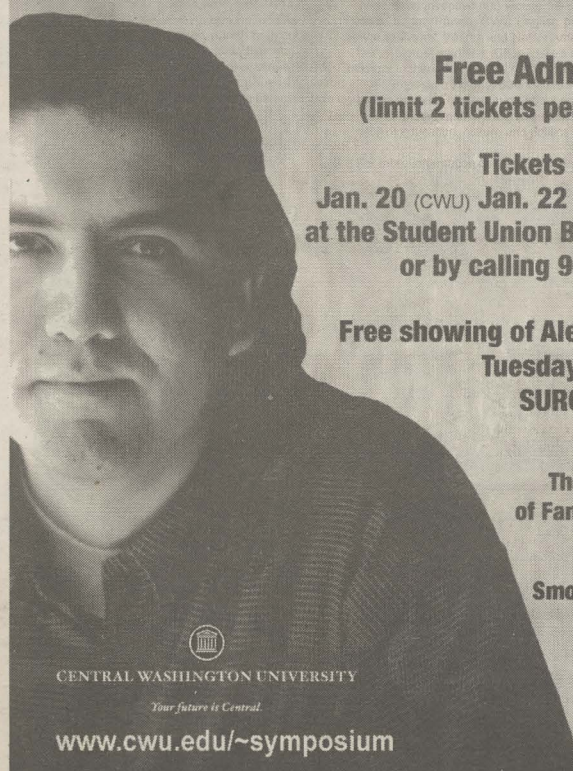
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January 15 - 22

16 Lion's Rock Visiting
Winter Series
7:30 p.m. at the Mary
Groupe

16 Friday Night Frenzy
5 p.m. in the SURC

16 Brewfest
12 to 5 p.m.
downtown

20 Winter Poker Tour-
naments
SURC 137A 6 p.m.

21 Wrestling with Man-
hood
8 p.m. in the SURC
Theatre

21 Love and Logic
6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in
Michaelsen 209

'Walk with King' march honors Hero

by Nicole Weinheimer
Staff reporter

The Central Washington University Student Affairs, Black Student Union (BSU), and the Students for the Dream Living Learning Community (LLC) invite fellow students and members of the public to join the celebration of the American hero Martin Luther King Jr.

Planned events include a campus march, guest speakers, and a viewing of King's famous "I Have a Dream" speech. Students and members of the public interested in participating in the "Walk with King" march are asked to meet at 6 p.m. on Jan. 15 at the Student Union and Recreation Center (SURC) Pit.

The march will begin at the corner of University Way and D Street, continuing to Walnut Avenue and ending at the SURC Theatre. Along the march, participants will carry signs and sing songs identical to those used during the Civil Rights Movement.

"It is important to put on a program to celebrate his life, legacy and all that he fought for— and to realize that the fight still continues," said Geneva Taylor, student coordinator for Students for the Dream LLC. "We should always remember, even in a small community, what he achieved and to recognize his life."

Following the march is a memorial program at 7 p.m. in the SURC Theatre. There will be a viewing of Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech, as well as a speech by Dr. Raymond Hall, CWU Africana and Black Studies professor.


"Students for the Dream LLC and the BSU have put all their heart and soul into the upcoming event and I see them representing and promoting King's legacy as the perfect advocates," Hall said. "Though the celebration is one day, I see these young people as perpetual adversaries of racist fueled ignorance and being a cure for the cause of stupidity." Additional activities include poetry readings and live music.

Anthony Peterson, a member of the CWU BSU, encourages students to attend the event because "America is changing and evolving; students should take this as an opportunity to get involved."

The Martin Luther King Jr. Day activities are open to all students and the general public. The event has been organized and sponsored by the Central BSU and the Students for the Dream LLC.

"This is going to be a ground-breaking event. We've worked really hard and I am very excited," Peterson said.







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CENTRAL WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Your future is Central

Showcase features music variety

by Amy Thompson
Staff reporter

In a vast room complemented by a glowing stage, the audience filed in one by one to be seated in the deep red chairs of the Concert Hall. Quiet anticipatory chatter echoed softly through the room. The lights dimmed and the room became silent, all eyes forward.

On the evening of Jan. 11, faculty members of Central Washington University played a variety of music, entrancing an audience of more than 130 guests at the Faculty Chamber Music Showcase.

The Showcase is part of The Performing Arts and Presidential Speaker Series. The theme is "A Life in Balance." Throughout the school year speakers and performers with talents and perspectives present to students, faculty, and the general public.

Smiling faculty members entered carrying their shining instruments. The opening piece captivated the audience, earning a prolonged applause while murmurs of approval were heard all around.

"I liked the variety; I enjoyed hearing the faculty's own compositions and to hear modern and older music," said Sharon Howe, archivist for the State archives of the Central Region Branch. "The conclusion was quite fun."

The remainder of the evening delivered a variety of music with pieces originating from Europe, South America, the United States and music composed in Ellensburg. Audience applause erupted with the conclusion of each compo-



Dan Brown/Observer

John Michael plays his cello during Johannes Brahms' composition "Allegro Con Brio" on Sunday January 11, 2009.

sition.

"It was great, as always," said Burke Anderson, a senior majoring in music performance. "It's good to be a part of this department."

This performance was different than other Central performances because it was an event where different music types were performed by the faculty in a single show.

"It's a great opportunity for

us, we get to bring in a bunch of music styles," said Jeff Snedeker, professor of music and coordinator of the event. "I'm happy we had a nice turnout."

The chamber consisted of 18 faculty members who delivered a variety of entertaining performances. Following the initial performance, the faculty members delighted the audience concluding the eve-

ning with a humorous piece where they played an upbeat song with faculty members joining in at different times throughout the song.

"It was phenomenal, fantastic," James Gaudino, president of Central said. "I enjoyed the variety of music, it was very good. Everyone was enjoying themselves."

The showcase was the first public event appearance for

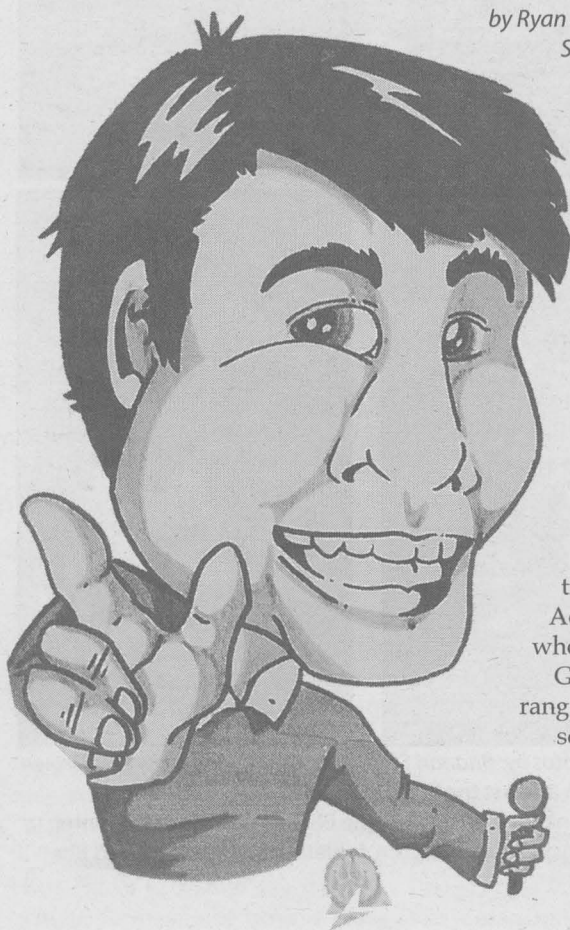
Gaudino.

"As always, it was a delight to make music with my colleagues and to hear their inventiveness," Carrie Rehkopf, professor of violin, said. "The audience seemed to enjoy themselves immensely."

With a content audience and well-done faculty performance, people exited the event with positive remarks and contentment.

Comedian's 'light' shines Friday

by Ryan Ricigiano
Staff reporter



Central Washington University will host its first comedy show of 2009, featuring comedian Matt Golightly at 9 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 16 in the Student Union and Recreation Center Ballroom.

"His stand-up style is somewhat similar to Jerry Seinfeld, in the sense that he looks at everyday situations and occurrences from a new and interesting angle," said Kyle Eaton, sophomore communication major and the Campus Activities student programmer who booked the comedian.

Golightly's subject material ranges from dating and the club scene, to politics and pop culture. However, he still leaves some of the show up to improvisation.

"He will quickly digress from his routine to play off the audience," Eaton said.

Golightly started his comedic career in 2000, but comedy has always been a part of his life.

"I grew up watching 'Kids in the Hall' and loving Dana Carvey and Dennis Miller," Golightly said. "I always really liked that early sketch comedy being done."

While attending the University of Texas, Golightly secured an internship with the San Antonio Spurs. While working there, he realized his own knack for comedy.

"While working for the Spurs, I always wanted to slip funny elements into my PR writing," Golightly said.

After graduating with a degree in communication in 2002, Golightly got into comedy full time. He performed at various nightclubs, college campuses and has showcased his material to troops overseas in Korea and Japan.

However, performing at comedy clubs was not the reason Golightly got into comedy. His original goal was to become a television show writer.

"I ended up really liking the travel element of performing," Golightly said. "I've only been doing this for eight years and it's still new and fresh."

Golightly describes his comedic style

as a blend of observational and conversational humor. He strives to tell jokes about relatable people and situations; things that everyone has experienced before.

"I really hope to get to know CWU students when I perform," Golightly said. "I want the audience to be like, 'I know that guy!' when I tell a joke."

It's this audience interaction and participation that Golightly feeds off of and hopes for at this Friday's performance.

For Golightly, who's been featured on 'The Bob and Tom Show', FOX TV and www.dailycomedy.com, it's good to be back in a campus setting.

"I really have a soft spot for doing college shows," Golightly said. "College is pretty much where I got my start."

For Chris Fallon, a Central junior, majoring in film and video studies, Golightly is someone worth checking out.

"I actually want to be a screenwriter for comedy-based TV shows," Fallon said. "I also like to check out different comedians and performances, so I might go."

Admission is free to Central students and \$5 for general admission.

sports



Men's basketball continues its prowl

by Laura Mittleider
Staff reporter

The Wildcats men's basketball team has been playing and practicing since Nov. 28 and seems to be the team to beat this season.

The Dec. 13 game had four Wildcat players in double figures and they went on to keep the lead throughout the entire game, finishing with an 83-55 beat-down.

This game was the fourth straight win for Central Washington University's golden boys and it also put them as the 12th ranked team in the National Association of the Basketball Coaches (NABC) Division II poll.

With a score that never came closer than four points, senior guard Matt Penoncello scored 12 of his 18 points in the first half.

The Wildcats pulled ahead 14-3 in the first half, against the Shaw University Bears from Raleigh, N.C.

While Penoncello scored highest, forward Jake Beiting-er added 11 points in the first period and ended the game with 13.

This was a team win, with every player seeing time on the court and getting at least eight minutes of play and no more than 25 minutes.

The Wildcats gave up 11 turnovers and dominated against the Bears in rebounds 35-31.

Along with Penoncello and Beiting-er, senior forward Brandon Foote and sophomore forward/center Chris Sprinker were also in double figures against Shaw University.

On Dec. 16 the Wildcats faced off against Dixie State University from St. George, Utah. With a slow start to the game, the team pulled ahead at the eight minute mark, but it was not enough to win in the end.

The Wildcats were defeated 74-64, earning them a 5-2 record, but all was not lost.

In the same game, Beiting-er and senior guard Johnny Spevak shared the game's highest scoring of 15 points, with Sprinker following close behind with 13 points and seven rebounds.

The Wildcats then had a 12-day break and came back strong against the Cascade College Thunderbirds on Dec. 29.

Men's home schedule

Thu 15-Jan	7 p.m.
Sat 17-Jan	7 p.m.
Sat 24-Jan	7 p.m.
Thu 29-Jan	7 p.m.
Sat 7-Feb	7 p.m.
Thu 26-Feb	7:30 p.m.
Sat 28-Feb	7:30 p.m.
Thu 5-Mar	7 p.m.

With a score of 100-58, Penoncello owned 29 of those points with seven rebounds.

This win improved the Wildcat's record to 6-2.

The Wildcats held the Thunderbirds scoreless for almost five minutes.

Two days later, the Wildcats traveled to Anchorage to face Alaska. Penoncello scored a game and season high of 33 points and grabbed a career high of 16 rebounds.

Sprinker added to the 92-80 victory, with 16 points and six rebounds.

At half-time Central led Alaska 50-34, thanks to a 22-point first half domination by Penoncello.

The Wildcats shot 51.3 percent in the first half and commanded the boards with a 28-11 rebounding advantage.

The Wildcats finished with a 50-26 advantage on rebounds, which is the largest advantage against a Division II opponent this season.

Jan. 10 was the Wildcats' last game in Anchorage.

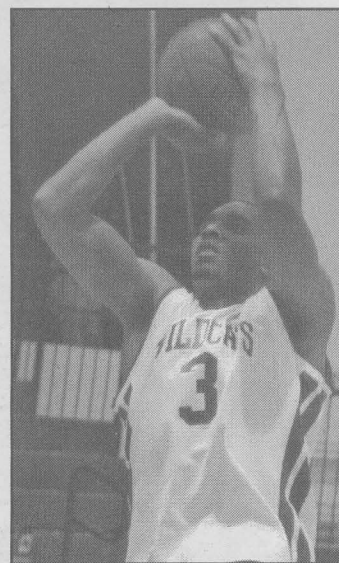
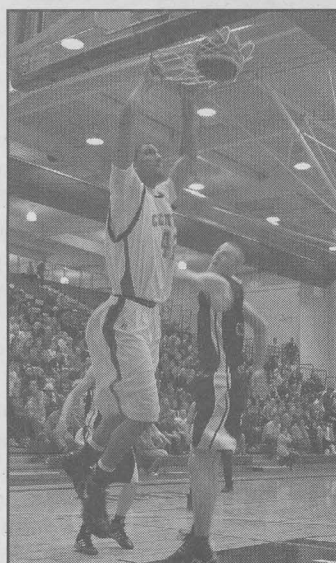
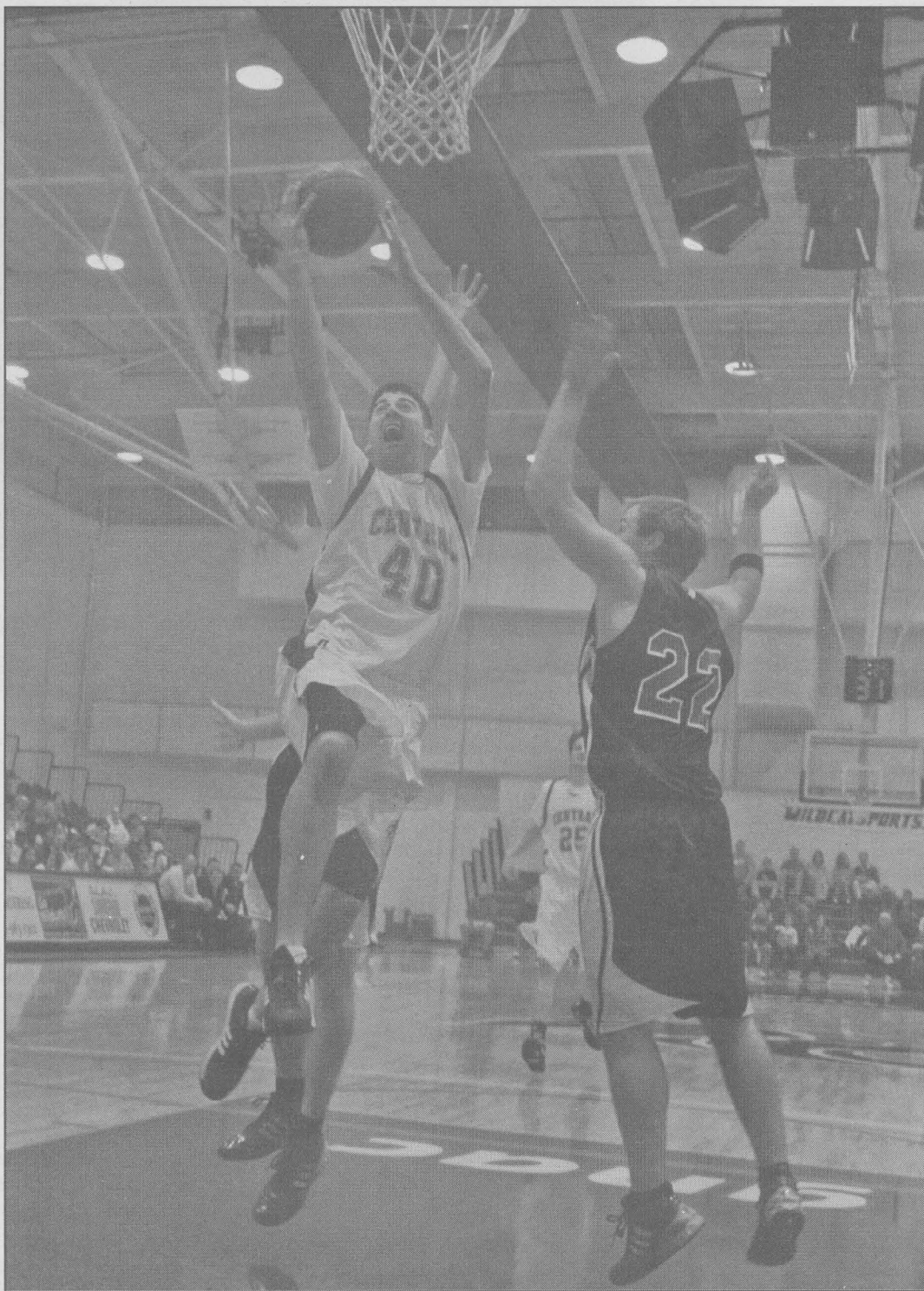
The team started off slowly and fell behind 17 points and left the game at half time with a score of 49-32. Both teams had a shooting percentage of 50 but Central fell behind in the rebounds at 28-16.

Both Central and Alaska had a combined total of 46 missed shots to end the game.

The Wildcats were unable to come back from a 11 point deficit losing to Alaska, 90-79.

So far this season the Wildcats are dominating on the court and are driving toward a division Championship.

The next home game for the team will be at 7 p.m. on Jan. 15 against Seattle Pacific University in Nicholson Pavilion.



Photos by: Brianan Stanley and bottom right by Dan Brown

Top: Junior forward Riley Sivek goes up for a lay-in against the Washington Athletic Club. Bottom Left: Senior forward Brandon Foote struggles to sink the ball against the Blue Angels. Bottom Center: Sophomore forward Chris Sprinker jams it in against the Washington Athletic Club. Senior guard Bottom Right: Giovanna Woods sets up for a jumper.

For a BCS Tournament VS. Against a BCS Tournament

The hottest debate this time of year is whether or not the Bowl Championship Series (BCS) football champion should be decided by a series of playoff games.

Other NCAA sports determine their national champion through a post-season playoff tournament, and it seems ridiculous that the most watched collegiate sport in America would not allow its teams to face-off against each other to determine their own champion.

However, the fact that college football is the most watched collegiate sport is a good indication that nothing needs to be changed.

In 2008, the BCS title game was watched by 28.7 million people, while the NCAA Men's Basketball Championship, in which the participants are decided by a tournament, brought in only 19.5 million viewers.

So why, with the title game as popular as ever, should the time-honored tradition that started over a hundred years ago be changed now?

The BCS has come under heavy scrutiny in the past two years by coaches, players, and fans alike. But why then, in 2007, did all 119 Football Bowl Subdivision universities choose the BCS as its sanctioned selecting organization?

They chose the BCS because it is the best option to fairly determine who should play in the championship game.

The BCS has not disappointed since being instated in 1998.

The nation's No. 1 and No. 2 teams met only eight times in bowl games in the 57 seasons between 1936 and 1992, when the "bowl coalition" (a predecessor of the BCS) was created. Between 1992 and 1998, college football was in a state of disarray as the NCAA was trying to find a system that would rank teams fairly.

However, since 1998, when the BCS was formed, the Associated Press' No. 1 and No. 2 have already met eight times

in the BCS Championship game, including this year's title game between No. 1 Oklahoma and No. 2 Florida. So, the BCS is working.

Another reason the NCAA is reluctant to entertain the idea of a post-season tournament is the safety of the players.

Injuries are commonplace in sports, more so in football.

Adding additional games to the end of the season could put the players at higher risk.

With more and more

I think the current BCS system is flawed and that a playoff system should be in place.

Every year, fans and coaches alike argue that their team deserves to play for the National Championship. However the only way to determine the teams is with a computer and polls. This leaves plenty of well deserving contenders outside looking in. In 2004, three teams were undefeated at the end of the season.

These teams were USC, Oklahoma, and Auburn. They all

People would probably agree now that Utah should have played for the National Championship after going undefeated, capping off their season defeating Alabama, a team that was ranked #1 for a good part of the season.

In order to get rid of these "what if" questions, I feel that they should ultimately expand to a 16 team playoff. Eleven teams would be the 11 conference champions, and then the next five highest ranked teams that aren't already in the playoffs would make up the other teams.

This still gives motivation to top-ranked teams to win their games so that they would have home field advantage.

By employing a 16-team playoff, it gives a chance for a Cinderella team.

When there is an underdog team that wins, everyone watches. People love seeing teams rise from nothing to something. Take a look at NCAA's March Madness back in 2006 when George Mason made it to the final four.

The team that has never won a playoff game before was one game away from being crowned National Champions.

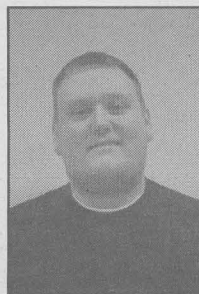
It felt like the whole country was rooting for them.

This demonstrated that you can't count anyone out. In college football, this would give a team from a conference like Conference USA or Sun Belt a chance to compete.

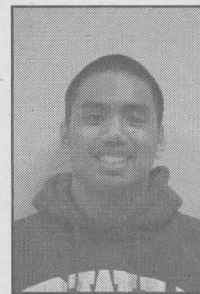
With the current system, the rankings are inflated with teams from big conferences.

With conferences like the SEC, Big 12, and Big Ten constantly putting out teams in the top 10, you rarely ever get to see a team from a smaller conference in the title game.

I'm not saying that the teams that have won the National Championship are undeserving by any means; I just feel that there needs to be a system in place that would allow more teams the opportunity to play for the title.



Andrew Hoggarh
Staff reporter



Adrian Acosta
Staff reporter



rules being put in place to protect the players, it would be difficult to convince the NCAA to add more games to the end of the season.

The BCS is an effective way to decide who should play for the championship.

Adding a tournament to the end of the season would put an end to many of the major bowls that have been around since the 1930s.

College football has been in the forefront of the sports scene since the Rose Bowl was invented in 1902.

The sport has evolved, when necessary, to keep up with the demand of fair competition, but at this point, the competition is still fair and changing it now could compromise its integrity.

Don't fix what isn't broken, and the BCS isn't broken. At least, not yet.

won their conferences. With a playoff system, all three teams would have the opportunity to compete for the National Championship.

This wasn't the case. Because USC and Oklahoma were ranked higher during the preseason, they were selected to play each other in the National Championship game, leaving Auburn to play in a meaningless bowl.

This year, USC was unable to play for the National Championship due to a loss to Oregon State early in the season.

Very strong play following the loss enabled them to climb back up in the rankings. With their impressive win over Penn State, I feel that USC should have the opportunity to play for the National Championship.

Western Washington cancels football program

by Dusty Kindred
Sports Editor

The country's economic downturn has hit home for students at Western Washington University, and by relation, here at Central Washington University.

According to the Everett Herald, Western President Bruce Shepard said last Thursday that because of budget cuts, falling endowment investments and rising expenses, Western has eliminated its football program.

Shepard further stated the goal was to save enough money to ensure the university's other 15 intercollegiate sports remain strong.

"It's called prioritizing, which is harder in practice than in theory," Shepard said.

Western officials said dropping the program would save the university \$480,000 right away.

The school reportedly could have saved more, but chose to honor scholarships for players who chose to stay and attend class. They also made

cuts prior to the recruiting season.

Another reason Vikings football was scrapped was due to the fact that operating a Division II football program in the Northwest is tough. There are only five teams in the Greater Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC), forcing the league to do a home-home schedule and having to travel to California, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, and Nevada, making it very expensive.

With this cut, the GNAC is now down to just four teams, causing many to question how long the schools can continue participating in a dwindling conference. The fate of Battle in Seattle, the single highest attended sporting event involving the Central Wildcats is also in question.

"The hardest part right now is finding two games to fill next season," said Jonathan Gordon, Central's athletic media relations director.

There has also been talk about having a Battle in Seattle basketball game to replace the football game against Western.

"The game would be held in Key Arena and

would be scheduled during the regular season," Jim Armstrong, director of alumni relations, said.

The Battle in Seattle is by far the biggest turn out of alumni, students and sponsors for Western and Central so finding a replacement is going to be difficult.

The next months will be crucial for Central administrators to sit down and decide the fate of Central's beloved six-year tradition on Quest field. Some even question whether Central's football team, like Western's, could be in danger as administrators discuss how to tackle extensive budget cuts mandated by the state earlier this month.

Gov. Christine Gregoire has proposed 13 percent cuts in higher education. Central President James Gaudino will be holding a budget cut discussion today from 1 to 3 p.m. in Hertz Auditorium and seeks student input.

Those that want to ensure CWU does not follow in Western's footsteps should make it a point to stop by.

Wildcats fall in GNAC opener



by Drew Ritchie
Staff reporter

The Central Washington University Women's Basketball team fell in its Great Northwest Athletic Conference opener to the Northwest Nazarene Crusaders 63-77 on Saturday, Jan. 10 at Nicholson Pavilion.

The Wildcat's record fell to 3-9 on the season and 0-1 in the conference. Nazarene improved to 8-5 on the season and 1-1 in the conference.

It was a crazy first half as there were 12 lead changes and the game was tied three times, but Nazarene ended up leading at half time, 33-31.

Amanda Murdoch, junior guard, led the Wildcats with seven points in the eight minutes she played in the first half and Shaina Afoa, junior forward/center, led with six rebounds.

Brittney Roggenkamp, junior forward, led Northwest Nazarene with seven points and Janee Olds, junior guard, led both sides with seven rebounds.

The Wildcats shot 48 percent from the field and had excellent success shooting three pointers, making 83 percent of their threes.

Nazarene shot 32 percent from the field and 30 percent shooting three pointers.

Nazarene had 18 points in the paint and 14 off turnovers while the Wildcats had 14 points in the paint but only three points off turnovers.

The Wildcats opened the second half slow as Nazarene started on a six to zero run. The Wildcats also had four turnovers in four possessions to open up the half.

"We looked very tired, very lethargic, and I thought [Nazarene's] pace the first half is what did us in," the Wildcats' Head Coach Jeff Whitney said. "The bottom line is that we just didn't stick to our game

plan and that was, you got to defend for 40 [minutes], rebound, then got to get some easy buckets, and we stopped doing that."

It didn't fare any better as the Wildcats were down by as much as 20 in the second half.

"They're definitely a running team and we couldn't keep up with them in the second half," junior forward/center Shaina Afoa said. "We didn't follow the game plan so it was just tough."

The buckets didn't seem to fall for the Wildcats as they were outscored in the second half, 44 to 32.

"The first half we were running our sets, we were ... setting screens and all of a sudden in the second half we got tired, lazy and we hung our heads as soon as they got on a run," senior center Hilary Tanneberg said. "[We] quit running our offense and quit setting screens and they just capitalized on it and we went farther and farther in the hole. We need to get back to the basics."

Afoa led the Wildcats with 13 points and Tanneberg led in rebounding with 10.

Briaunna King, freshman point from Nazarene, led all scorers with 24 points and Olds led her team in rebounds with eight.

The Wildcats will try to rebound in their next game when they take on rival Western Washington at Western Washington University. The Wildcats will have a tough task ahead of them as Western is 8-4 overall and 4-1 at home.

Western brings a decent scoring attack as they average 70 points per game as a team.

Jessica Summers, senior forward, and Amanda Dunbar, sophomore guard, are ranked one and two on the team, scoring an average of 13.1 and 12.1 points per game respectively.

Western also brings decent shooting as they average 35.3 percent three point shooting and 41.1 percent from the field.

After Western, the Wildcats will have another tough task ahead as they go to conference opponent, Seattle Pacific University, to face the 18th ranked Falcons.

The Falcons are riding a three game winning streak. They are 9-2 overall, 2-0 in the conference and 3-0 at home. They average 71.8 points per game.

They have a 45.2 percent field goal percentage and 30.6 percent three point percentage.

Kelsey Burns, senior forward, is their leading scorer with 14.2 points per game.



Brianan Stanley, Observer

Left: Senior guard Tanna Radtke drives past a Nazarene defender in the season opener for the Women's basketball team. Radtke finished with four points, two rebounds and four assists. Top: Senior forward Nicole Jordan blocks an NNU defender's shot out of bounds. Jordan finished with four points and three rebounds.

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CWU alumni tears up the Dakar

by James Anderson
Assistant sports editor

Think driving home for the weekend is long and grueling? Try riding a motorcycle through thousands of feet of powdery sand dunes and some of the worst landscapes South America has to offer.

These obstacles are part of the Dakar, an annual rally that features some of the most hard-core riders and drivers from around the world, including one of Central's own alumni, Jonah Street, who is in fourth place at the moment.

The Dakar is a 15-day, nearly non-stop race in which riders and drivers of motorcycles, quads, cars and trucks vie for a top spot on the podium. The race is nearly 12,000 km (approximately 7,500 miles) and has a reputation for being one of the hardest and most watched motor sport races in the world.

"The following [of the Dakar] in Europe is like the Super Bowl in the United States," said John Street, engineering tech for the psychology department and Jonah's father.

Jonah Street graduated from CWU in 1990 and has been racing motorcycles all of his life. Since graduating CWU, Street has been riding off and on in different circuits around the world, including Team Honda in the Baja 1000 in Mexico and the Best in the Desert off-road races in Nevada, keeping his skills honed.

"Jonah is thoughtful about what he does and what risks he thinks are worth taking," said Libby Street, university chief planning officer and aunt to Jonah.

The Dakar requires every rider and driver to follow a set of more than a hundred directions every day of the race, telling them where to go and where to be at certain times.

These aspects are tracked using GPS hom-

ing devices within each rider's vehicle.

In the past, the Dakar started in Paris and ended in Dakar, North Africa. However, near the end of last year's event, threats of terrorist attacks caused the race to close.

This year's event starts and ends in Buenos Aires, Argentina, taking racers from coast to coast in a giant loop-de-loop across South America.

"Jonah's been riding since a very young age," Libby Street said. "His family is extraordinarily proud of him."

The Dakar is hosted by the Amaury Sport Organization, which is the group that also hosts the Tour de France.

During this year's event Jonah is riding for Rally Pan Am out of San Francisco.

When riding on the route Jonah is followed by a mechanical truck filled with tools and replacement parts, in case Jonah's bike breaks down.

Although safety and medical staff are on hand during the event, there have been the expected accidents, collisions and even deaths.

"It makes me a little nervous of course when [Jonah] is off racing but it's been really fun to watch him do well in these rallies," said Allison Street, Jonah's mother.

Although Jonah Street is up to the challenge of six more unforgiving stages, there are nearly 125 motorcycle riders still in the running, and only time will tell who will come away the victor.

UPDATE: On stage 8 of the race, Jonah Street was given a 15 minute penalty for replacing an engine without going through the proper procedures.

Later that day Jonah crashed his bike and re-injured his wrist that he had broken a few months before in a different race. Jonah chose to withdraw from the race instead of risking permanent damage to his wrist.



Photos provided by Rally Pan Am

Top: Jonah Street and his mechanics pose behind the motorcycle Jonah will be riding in the rally. The bike is a KTM 690 Rally specially modified by the Rally Pan Am team. Right: Jonah smiles in his gear. This is the fourth time Jonah has raced in the Dakar.



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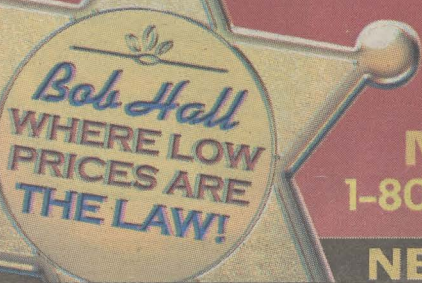
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